

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCA-01 SCSE-00 VOE-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00 M-03

SY-10 RSR-01 USSS-00 /120 W  
----- 111595

P 191628 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9923

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

UNCLAS CARACAS 4314

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN VE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-- HIJACKING OF AVENSA AIRCRAFT FROM VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 4310

1. AS SEEN FROM CARACAS, YESTERDAY'S AVENSA AIRCRAFT HIJACKING ( REFTEL) IS TODAY'S HEADLINE NEWS. LATEST WORD HERE IS THAT HIJACKERS HAVE DIVERTED PLANE TO CURACAO, PANAMA, AND MOST RECENTLY MERIDA ( MEXICO).

2. PASSENGER MANIFEST DOES NOT DEFINE NATIONALITY BUT TENOR OF OFFICIAL AND PRESS COMMENT PLUS LACK OF ANY INFO TO CONTRARY CONTINUE SUGGEST NO RPT NO US CITIZENS ABOARD PLANE.

3. THREE PREVIOUS AVENSA AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN HIJACKED TO CUBA. PILOT OF THIS FOURTH HIJACKED PLANE TOOK OFF 3:36 P. M. YESTERDAY FROM VALERA AND 10 MINUTES LATER CONTACTED MAIQUETIA CONTROL TOWER TO SAY " PUNTO CERO" MEMBERS WERE FORCING HIM DIVERT TO CURACAO.

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4. THIRTY- TWO PASSENGERS AND FOUR CREW MEMBERS BELIEVED TO BE ABOARD PLANE. HIJACKERS DESCRIBED AS FOUR ARMED YOUNG MEN.

5. ACCORDING TO MORNING PRESS, HIJACKERS DEMANDING RELEASE OF 79 " POLITICAL PRISONERS". PRESS SAYS FONMIN CALVANI CONCERNED FOR SAFETY OF VENEZUELAN PASSENGERS ABOARD AIRCRAFT BUT GOV HAS AS YET MADE NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT.  
DEVINE

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 19 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 73 CARACAS 4310  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** CIVAIR-- HIJACKING OF AVENSA AIRCRAFT FROM VENEZUELA  
**TAGS:** ETRN, VE, ETRN  
**To:** ARA  
LIMA  
MEXICO  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
USCINCSO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

